Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Renewable energy jobs up by a third

The number of jobs in Australia related to renewable energy production grew by one-third in 2016-17 to 14,820 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, according to data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

ABS Director of Environment and Agriculture Statistics, Lauren Binns, said the 33 per cent increase on the previous year was mainly due to a number of major wind and solar energy projects starting their construction phase.

"The increase in employment in 2016-17 was driven primarily by three states, Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia " said Ms Binns.

Queensland had the largest increase in renewable energy employment, gaining an extra 1,220 FTE jobs, as a result of construction of large scale solar farms.

New South Wales and South Australia, on the other hand, realised most of their increases from new wind farm construction.

“In recent years, Australia has experienced growth in the amount of energy derived from renewable sources. While the proportion of energy from renewable sources remains relatively small there is considerable interest in renewable energy activities and associated employment," said Ms Binns.

While roof top solar employment accounts for nearly half of the renewable energy jobs, the numbers have declined substantially over time, from a peak of 14,300 in 2011-12 to 6,430 in 2016-17.

The ABS publication, *Employment in Renewable Energy Activities, Australia*, provides experimental estimates of the levels of employment in renewable energy by state and territory, and by types of renewable energy activities.

Media note:

- The scope of employment estimates in this publication is employment in activities principally motivated by the production of renewable energy, and/or by the design, construction and/or operation and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure.
- Further details can be found in Employment in Renewable Energy Activities, 2016-17 *(cat. no. 4631.0)*, available for free download from the ABS website www.abs.gov.au
- When reporting ABS data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS)

must be attributed as the source.

- For media requests and interviews, contact the ABS Communications and Partnerships Section on 1300 175 070 (8.30am - 5pm Mon-Fri).
- Subscribe to our email notification service and get media releases or products sent to you on release.
- For more detailed information about the definitions used in the survey refer to the publication Glossary

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